

November 6, 2008

City of Milton-Freewater
SPECIAL SESSION – CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

The Council of the City of Milton-Freewater met for a Special Session Thursday, November 6, 2008 at 12:00 p.m. in the Albee Room of the Library.

The following members were present: Mayor Lewis Key, Councilors Orrin Lyon, Ed Chesnut, Keith Woods, Debbie Kelley, Brad Humbert and Steve Irving.

Staff members present were: City Manager Linda Hall, Electric Superintendent Mike Charlo and City Recorder Leanne Steadman.

Citizens present were: Richard Jolly, Robin Jolly, Arla Ruthven, Jack Ruthven, Paul Seaquist, Sam Hubbard, Herb March and Jeff Anliker.

Press members present were: Melanie Hall of the Valley Herald and Samantha Bates of the East Oregonian.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

**FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION WITH POSSIBLE ACTION TAKEN REGARDING THE
ISSUE OF WIND TURBINE PLACEMENT TO THE CITY'S EASTERN
BOUNDARIES**

City Manager Linda Hall reported that the City Council became aware of wind generation companies exploring the possibility of locating wind turbines in the Blue Mountains and their foothills. She said there had been several meetings held with input from citizens regarding the wind turbines. Ms. Hall explained, during those meetings the city council had been asked by several citizens to take a stance, either for, or against the wind turbines. She said she had drafted a resolution and a letter to the Umatilla County Planning Department and the County Commissioners that expressed concerns over the disturbance of the City's view shed and suggested that the City could have some input into the implementation of wind turbines. She said it was at the council's discretion on what action they wanted to take. They could either adopt the resolution or remain neutral on the issue by taking no action. She also said there was a Umatilla County Planning meeting at 6:30 p.m. about the wind turbines that she planned on attending.

Councilor Lyon said he was concerned about the wording on the resolution since it only referred to the south hill. He felt it should cover more area.

Councilor Kelley was concerned with the close proximity of the wind turbines to homes and the possible health concerns that could arise from them. She felt there needed to be more studies done on wind turbines and how they affect farms and the noise they produce.

Councilor Chesnut suggested amending the language on the resolution to extend from the Oregon, Washington border to Hwy 204.

Councilor Humbert motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2106 as amended, Resolution Expressing Concern with the Proposed Placement of Wind Generation Turbines Located in

the View shed of the South Hill of City of Milton-Freewater. Councilor Woods seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Manager Hall suggested appointing one spokes person to speak at the Umatilla County Planning meeting. Council consensus was to appoint Councilor Chesnut as the spokesman.

Sam Hubbard – 120 S. Andrea, said he spoke with Representative Greg Smith about the proposed wind turbines. He said he learned about the bond and the cleaning up of the “grave yard of wind turbines”. He said he appreciated the stance that council had taken.

Jeff Anliker – 325 W. Broadway, he felt the council was moving in the right direction and thanked them for taking a stance.

Arla Ruthven – 84547 Weis Rd. – she thanked the council for taking a stance as well.

There being no further business, council adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Lewis S. Key, Mayor